



NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Critical dike work continues

Corps awards \$30 million contract for Herbert Hoover Dike rehabilitation

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. – The Herbert Hoover Dike Rehabilitation Project moved another step closer to reducing flood risk with the recent award of \$30,454,196 to complete another section of cutoff wall in the southeastern area of the dike near Pahokee.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Jacksonville District awarded the Seepage Cutoff Wall task order Sept. 10 to Treviicos South, Inc., of Boston, Mass. This is the second task order awarded to Treviicos, and the seventh order under a single contract for emplacement of the partial cutoff wall.

The 75-year-old Herbert Hoover Dike (HHD) is a Corps of Engineers dam safety priority. Jacksonville District is currently rehabilitating the dike's most vulnerable section, the 22-mile section between Port Mayaca and Belle Glade.

"The Corps maintained the target in awarding more than \$94.6 million in dike rehabilitation contracts in 2010," said Tim Willadsen, HHD project manager in Jacksonville. "Everything we're doing brings us closer to making the dike safer and, therefore, helping keep people and property safe, too."

To date, 20 miles of cutoff wall in the 22-mile "Reach 1" section are now under construction or completed, totaling over \$200 million in contracts. This latest task order is for a 3.4-mile section from Canal Point to the City of Pahokee marina. The last two miles of cutoff wall will tie-in structures such as culverts and the Port Mayaca Lock.

"The award of this task order maintains the momentum essential to rehabilitation of the dike in an efficient and effective manner," said Col. Alfred Pantano, Jacksonville District commander.

"The timing of the award happens to coincide with the 82nd anniversary of the Great Okeechobee Hurricane of Sept. 16, 1928; the second-deadliest natural disaster in U.S. history. This coincidence is a sober reminder of the fierceness of this sleeping giant and reinforces our commitment to achieving the necessary outcome. The Corps constructed the dike following this horrific event, and our rehabilitation today emphasizes the Corps' long-standing commitment to the public's safety," Pantano said.



Emplacement of the cutoff wall provides immediate risk reduction benefits.

The Corps began installing a partially penetrating cutoff wall in the dike in 2008. The wall serves as a barrier to water pathways or piping, which can lead to internal erosion. The two- to three-foot-thick wall extends from the top of the dike through the foundation to several feet beyond the limestone bedrock, averaging 50 to 70 feet – or about three stories – below the crest of the dike. The Corps recognizes the challenges involved in the cutoff wall construction. To help ensure success and momentum, the HHD Team sought global expertise and used a contract vehicle that allowed multiple firms to work simultaneously.

The Corps awarded “multiple task order” contracts in 2008 for cutoff wall construction to Treviicos, Bauer Foundation Corps of Clearwater, FL, and Hayward Baker Inc., based in Odenton, Md.

In addition to cutoff wall work, local construction firm H&R of Belle Glade completed filling in quarries in 2010 as part of a \$6 million contract. The quarries abutted the base of the dike and caused concern to slope stability. Clearing and filling the quarry stabilizes the area and base of the dike.

The 143-mile earthen dike surrounds Lake Okeechobee, the second largest freshwater lake in the nation. For more information, please visit www.saj.usace.army.mil, and click the Herbert Hoover Dike link in the right column.

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